



EPA Region 6



QUARTERLY REPORT

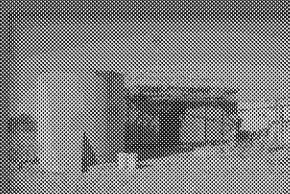
January - March 2017



US-MEXICO COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT
Implementation of Border 2020 Program
EPA-Region 6
X4-01F04901



Submitted by:
Javier Torres, Technical Assistance Manager



Comisión de Cooperación Ecológica Fronteriza
Border Environment Cooperation Commission

QUARTERLY STATUS REPORT

US-MEXICO COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT Implementation of Border 2020 Program EPA-Region 6

GRANT: X4-01F04901

Grant Period: August 12, 2015 - August 31, 2017

REPORTING PERIOD:

October - December 2016

TO:

Monica Wilson

U.S. EPA, Region 6 (6PD)

Environmental Protection Specialist

FROM:

Javier Torres

Border Environment Cooperation Commission

Technical Assistance Manager

April 30, 2017, Cd. Juárez, Chihuahua, México

US Mexico Border 2020 Environmental Program - Quarterly Grant Status Report

Grant Title:

US – Mexico Border Cooperative Agreement
Implementation of EPA Region-6 Border 2020 Program

**Grant Agreement
No.**

X4-01F04901

Contact:

Primary Contact Name: **Javier Torres**

Organization: Border Environment Cooperation Commission

Telephone & Fax: 01-656-688-4600 Email: jtorres@cecef.org

Reporting Period (please check appropriate period):

- ☐ July 1 – September 30, 2015, Reporting period: report due on October 30, 2015
- ☐ October 1 – December 31, 2015, Reporting period: report due on January 30, 2016
- ☐ January 1 – March 31, 2016, Reporting period: report due on April 30, 2016
- ☐ April 1 – June 30, 2016, Reporting period: report due on July 30, 2016
- ☐ July 1 – September 30, 2016, Reporting period: report due on October 30, 2016
- ☐ October 1 – December 31, 2016, Reporting period: report due on January 30, 2017
- ☒ January 1 – March 31, 2017, Reporting period: report due on April 30, 2017
- ☐ April 1 – June 30, 2017, Reporting period: report due on July 30, 2017
- ☐ July 1 – September 30, 2017, Reporting period: report due on October 30, 2017

Check here if this is the final reporting period under your grant ☐

Please explain any current or expected growth of your project. If there is growth potential, have you consulted with other partners for further or future leveraging of funds, for continuing the project after funding from the Environmental Protection Agency ends?

No growth is expected for the projects under-development at this time.

Indicate the goal(s) and objective(s) of the Border 2020 Framework Document that this grant is addressing (<http://www.epa.gov/border2020>)

GOAL 1. - Reduce Air Pollution

Objective 1. - By 2020, in accordance with the NAFTA, promote the reduction of the number of vehicles operating in the border region that do not comply with the respective vehicle emissions' standards and reduce vehicle emissions at ports-of-entry through anti-idling and other feasible reduction measures.

- **Project type 1:** Support the development of vehicle emissions programs in collaboration with governmental entities in order to improve compliance, enhance detection and correction of non-compliance vehicles. In addition, capacity building activities to reduce air pollution, in the border cities or at the Ports of Entry (POE), which may include the enforcement of environmental compliance at the time of used vehicle importation.

Objective 2.- By 2020, reduce pollutant emissions in order to approach attainment of respective national ambient air quality standards (i.e. National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) or Norms as they are referred in Mexico) in the El Paso, Texas–Dona Ana County, New Mexico and at State of Chihuahua’s border cities’ air sheds.

- **Project type 1:** Establish joint collaboration strategies with governmental and/or non-governmental regulatory and planning agencies to identify and implement air pollutant reduction strategies to achieve better air quality in the Paso del Norte region (PdN). Projects should promote, expand, and be consistent with the strategies identified in PROAIRES (Mexico’s air shed management plan) or U.S. Clean Air Act (USCAA) State Implementation Plans (SIPs.)

Objective 3. – By 2018, maintain effective Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Network (AAQMN) and provide real-time access to air quality data produced at New Mexico/Texas /Mexico air sheds.

- **Project Type 1:** Initiatives for this objective should aim to ensure the long term sustainability and data quality for the El Paso, Texas – Ciudad Juarez, Chihuahua air quality monitoring network.

Objective 5. - By 2020, reduce emissions and associated impacts through energy efficiency and/or alternative/renewable energy projects.

Possible projects could include: Border-wide training for border stakeholders in instituting and sustaining urban energy efficiency measures; green building training/workshops; forums in which states, localities, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and industry can share program information and technologies; and energy efficiency co-benefits through reduction of criteria air contaminant emissions (stationary and vehicle sources)

GOAL 2: Water – Improve Access to Clean and Safe Water

- **Project type 1:** Efforts under this goal should be targeted to capacity building proposals that incorporate replication strategies, on proper maintenance and/or decommissioning of septic tanks, water conservation and pollution prevention in order to better understand, plan and maintain cleanup sources of drinking water on future groundwater supplies in New Mexico-Texas-Chihuahua border, specifically in Dona Ana County, New Mexico (particularly those communities along the corridor between El Paso, Texas and Las Cruces, New Mexico) and Luna County, New Mexico and El Paso County, Texas.

Objective 2. - Help drinking water and wastewater service providers in the border region to implement sustainable infrastructure practices to reduce operating costs, improve energy efficiency, use water efficiently and adapt to climate change.

- **Project type 1:** Conduct energy and/or water audits on small water drinking systems that serve communities with less than a population of 5,000 users, to identify recommendations on how to improve efficiency and provide cost-savings measures for that system.
- **Project type 2:** Outreach and education to improve water quality within the Gulf Task Force Region.

Objective 3. - Work bi-nationally to identify and reduce surface water contamination in Trans - boundary water bodies and watersheds.

Objective 3a. - Develop a binational watershed protection plan in the Lower Rio Grande below Falcon International Dam. Initial activities could include partnership building, watershed characterization, definition of goals/identification of solutions, determination of waste load, load allocations for each country, and development of an implementation plan.

- **Project type 1:** Continue to support activities that meet objective 3a– The proposals should address any water quality sampling and collection, data analysis, modeling and surveys still required by the bi-national workgroup on this project. In addition, the work should also support any additional training or workshops needed, among others, by the Amistad and Falcon Task Force, as well by the Texas-Coahuila-Nuevo Leon –Tamaulipas, Regional Work Group.

GOAL 3: Promote Materials Management & Waste Management, & Clean Sites

Objective 1. - By 2020, increase local and state-level institutional knowledge and experience in the area of sustainable material management practices.

- **Project type 1:** Proposals should be aimed to build capacity and establish strategies to improve infrastructure to minimize waste, maximize collections systems, support secondary materials markets, and reduce overall disposal in landfills and open dumps.

Objective 2. - Identify priority waste streams and by 2020 develop sustainable material management practices that strengthen their respective market value.

- **Project type 1:** Identify priority waste streams in the municipalities from Four States region and develop sustainable waste management programs for those municipalities to include strengthening the market value of the waste.
- **Project type 2:** Develop sustainable management practices to address used electronics, household hazardous waste, and tires in the Region which will include an educational component to promote recycling and solid waste practices.

GOAL 4: Enhance Joint Preparedness for Environmental Response

Objective 2. - By 2020, at least eight (8) of the sister city joint contingency plans will be supplemented with preparedness and prevention related activities such as certified training, risk analysis, and/or capacity building

- **Project type 1:** Conduct bi-national training to both U.S. and Mexican local emergency responders, on incidents involving Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, or Explosive (CBRNE), and/or all hazards response skills enabling them to respond safely and effectively to these types of incidences.
- **Project type 2:** Conduct bi-national training to U.S. and Mexican local emergency responders, specifically on HAZMAT incidences only.
- **Project type 3:** Conduct bi-national: 1) tabletop drill with functional drill/exercise or 2) Full Scale Drill/Exercises to test local sister city plans. In order to meet the definition of bi-national, the drills/exercises should go beyond a simple notification to the local sister-city pair and demonstrate actual coordination of resources (expertise, equipment, personnel, etc.) between the sister-cities.
- **Project type 4:** Develop a hazardous materials risk analysis.

GOAL 5. – Enhance Compliance Assurance and Environmental Stewardship

Objective 4. - By 2020, implement at least five (5) binational workshops targeted to environmental enforcement professionals, including ports-of-entry customs professionals (i.e. Department of Homeland Security-Customs and Border Protection), to promote the exchange of information and improve understanding of each Country's respective compliance and enforcement programs and tools, including field studies.

- **Project type 1:** Proposals should consider events for information exchange to improve understanding each Country's respective compliance and enforcement programs and tools including field inspections and case development practices.

Fundamental Strategies

Promoting Environmental Health

- **Project type 1:** Projects presented under this fundamental strategy should increase engagement and participation by the community and stakeholders to better manage the environment and public health issues along the border.

Building Capacity towards Climate Change Resiliency

- **Project type 1:** The Border 2020 climate change efforts should focus on reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and on actions to help border communities become more resilient to the effects of climate change.

Summary of approved Work Plan activities performed during the reporting quarter.

Projects in progress during reporting period:

Project ID	Goal / Fund. Strategy	Objective	Project Name	Status
20288	1	1	Improvements to Environmental Services in Cattle Ranches via Livestock Grazing, Ascensión, Chihuahua.	Project Status: Monitoring of air parameters data downloaded from all 9 weather stations was performed during this period; vegetation basal cover was determined for all 9 ranches by collecting data.
20293	5	4	Legislative Reform and Environmental Education, Nuevo Laredo, Tamaulipas.	Project Status: 856 students of 13 elementary schools in Nuevo Laredo were educated on environmental legislation; review of the

				municipal code and identification of improvements on 10 border cities in Tamaulipas was carried out and a standard municipal code to be implemented in the border cities of Tamaulipas was developed.
20286	3	2	Comprehensive E-Waste Management in Piedras Negras, Coahuila and Eagle Pass, Texas.	Project Status: A permanent e-waste collection center was established. The e-waste collection campaign focused on local industry and educational centers. To date, more than 50 tons of e-waste have been collected. The group Green Tec-Osos continues to collect e-waste through a mobile container. An e-waste collection campaign program was designed for the city of Eagle Pass to be implemented in the next quarter.
20290	2	3	The Rio Grande/Río Bravo Water Quality Initiative, Laredo, Texas.	Project Status: Project staff is currently working with CILA, CONAGUA and IMTA to identify Mexican representatives to the Lower Rio Grande Water Quality Initiative project.
20291	2	2	Fat, Oil and Grease (FOG) Public Outreach Campaign, Brownsville, Texas.	Project Status: Project completion date extended to April 2017. Outreach effort continues, BPUB currently has two (2) digital poster boards that run FOG ads.
20294	3	1	Let's Clean it Up and Green it Up, Pharr, Texas	Project Status: The city of Pharr representatives attended the environmental summit meeting for Pharr schools to promote recycling and tire collection monthly operations and clean sweep events. The city hosted the annual tire incentive program for Pharr residents. Final document is being drafted, project is expected to finish by next quarter.

Summary of the Work Plan performance outputs/outcomes achieved during the reporting quarter.

There are no performance outputs and outcome to report at the project level.

Are you on track with your timeline? Yes ☒ No ☐

A description of problems encountered during the reporting quarter that may affect the project schedule and a discussion of meeting the performance outputs/outcomes.

No problems have been reported.

Resolutions to Problems Previously Reported.

No problems have been reported.

Activities Anticipated/Planned for Next Three Months and Budgeted Costs.

- Coordinate with the sponsors the implementation of the projects in accordance with the approved Work Plans.
- An RFP is under-development and expected to be announced in May. Funds from this cooperative agreement will be used to funds selected projects.

Discuss what key personnel did on the project.

Joaquin Marruffo provided overall project coordination as well as the communication with EPA. Briselda Duarte, Armando Herrerias and Jorge Hernandez manage the kick off and implementation of the projects in close coordination with EPA. Marielena Constandse prepared this report. Marielena Constandse, Abril Quiroz and Javier Torres provided RFP coordination and Grant Administration.

Discuss any changes in key personnel.

None

Please name any significant partner organizations that you (as the lead organization) have for this project, who are taking responsibility for substantial portions of implementation.

N/A

BUDGET SUMMARY - Include information on the expenditure of grant agreement funds during the quarter and cumulatively by task in the provided budget tables. The tasks should correspond to the tasks outlined in your approved grant agreement work plan and the tables may be expanded accordingly. In addition, include in your narrative an estimate of funds needed to complete the work required in the grant agreement compared to the funds remaining in the grant agreement. *Note: This section does not substitute for the annual financial status report (SF-269) required by the grant agreement.*

TABLE 1

Summary of Quarterly Expenses by Category (Report Period January 1 to March 31, 2017)

Work Plan Tasks	Approved Work Plan Budget	Previously Expended	Expenses this Quarter	Total Cumulative Expenses
Task A - RFP	\$66,234	\$33,117.45	\$0	\$0
Task B - Projects	\$600,584	\$76,850.88	\$26,235.16	\$103,086.04
Task C - Logistics	\$65,000	\$0	\$0	\$0
Indirect Cost	\$73,182	\$10,996.84	\$2,623.52	\$13,620.36
TOTAL Cumulative Expenses	\$805,000	\$120,965	\$28,859	\$149,824

TABLE 2

Budget Categories (programmatic costs only)	Task A- RFP	Task B- Projects	Task C- Logistical Support	TOTAL Quarterly Expenses
Personnel	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Fringe Benefits	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Travel	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Contractual	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Other (specify)	\$0	\$26,235.16	\$0	\$26,235.16
TOTAL Direct Charges	\$0	\$26,235.16	\$0	\$26,235.16
Indirect Costs	\$0	\$2,623.52	\$0	\$2,623.52
TOTAL Cumulative Expenses	\$0	\$28,858.68	\$0	\$28,858.68

¹EPA defines equipment as items that cost \$5,000 or more with a useful life of more than one year. Items costing less than \$5,000 are considered supplies.

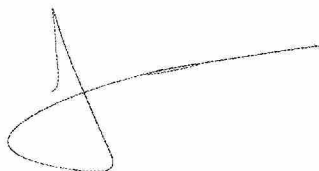
²Applicants must comply with the procurement procedures contained in 40 CFR 31.36, or for non-profits, with 40 CFR30.40.

What is the geographic scope of your project implementation? (Include whether it is within the Tri-State and/or Four-State Region of Border 2020, whether implementation takes place in both the U.S. and Mexico, and any more specific implementation.)

The geographic scope of this award covers the Tri-State Region, which includes the states of New Mexico, Chihuahua and the West Texas region; and the Four-State Region which includes the rest of Texas, Coahuila, Tamaulipas and Nuevo Leon.

I certify that this report is true and correct, project is on schedule except as noted, and funds are being utilized as planned and agreed to in the award document.

Signature of Project Official:



Printed Name:

Javier Torres

Title:

Technical Assistance Manager

Date:

April 30, 2017

Within 30 days following the end of each quarter, please submit this report to your EPA Project Officer.

ATTACHMENT “A”

THREE STATE (TX-CHIH-NM) BORDER 2020 - 2015 PROJECTS								
No.	Project ID	Project Name	Project Implementer	Project Location	BECC Contract Officer & Project Manager	TAA signed	Amount Approved	STATUS
			Contact Information			Period Of Performance	Amount Disbursed	
1	20288	Improvements to Environmental Services in Cattle Ranches via Livestock Grazing, Ascensión, Chihuahua.	Universidad Autónoma de Chihuahua – Facultad de Zootecnia y Ecología	Ascension, Chih.	Briselda Duarte (PM)	7/15/2016	\$ 41,388.00	Project Status: Monitoring of air parameters data downloaded from all 9 weather stations was performed during this period; vegetation basal cover was determined for all 9 ranches by collecting data.
						7/31/2017		

Amount Approved	\$ 41,388.00
Amount Disbursed	\$ -

FOUR STATE (TX-COAH-NL-TAMPS) BORDER 2020 - 2015 PROJECTS

No.	Project ID	Project Name	Project Implementer	Project Location	BECC Contract Officer & Project Manager	TAA signed	Amount Approved	STATUS
			Contact Information			Period Of Performance	Amount Disbursed	
1	20283	Energy Efficiency Workshop for Public Lighting Systems, Reynosa, Tamaulipas.	Secretaria de Desarrollo Urbano y Medio Ambiente	Reynosa, Tamps.	Briselda Duarte (PM)	2/22/2016	\$ 9,330.33	Project Status: Concluded on August 2016. Technical training provided to 30 technical officials from the municipalities of Nuevo Laredo, Guerrero, Mier, Miguel Aleman, Camargo, Diaz Ordaz, Reynosa, Rio Bravo, Valle Hermoso and Matamoros, Tamaulipas. Thirty (30) energy efficiency guidelines including maintenance recommendations to reduce Kwh electrical consumption were reviewed.
						8/2/2016	\$ 9,330.33	
2	20293	Legislative Reform and Environmental Education, Nuevo Laredo, Tamaulipas.	Universidad Autónoma de Tamaulipas en Nuevo Laredo.	Nuevo Laredo, Tamps.	Briselda Duarte (PM)	5/26/2016	\$11,000.00	Project Status: 856 students of 13 elementary schools in Nuevo Laredo were educated on environmental legislation; review of the municipal code and identification of improvements on 10 border cities in Tamaulipas was carried out and a standard municipal code to be implemented in the border cities of Tamaulipas was developed.
						5/2/2017	\$ 5,552.74	
3	20286	Comprehensive E-Waste Management in Piedras Negras, Coahuila and Eagle Pass, Texas.	Grupo Ecológico Green Tec-Osos del Instituto Tecnológico de Piedras Negras	Piedras Negras, Coahuila and Eagle Pass, Texas	Jorge Hernandez (PM)	1/21/2016	\$36,054.00	Project Status: A permanent e-waste collection center was established. The e-waste collection campaign focused on local industry and educational centers. To date, more than 50 tons of e-waste have been collected. The group Green Tec-Osos continues to collect e-waste through a mobile container. An e-waste collection campaign program was designed for the city of Eagle Pass to be implemented in the next quarter.
						7/18/2017	\$ 24,287.08	
4	20290	The Rio Grande/Rio Bravo Water Quality Initiative, Laredo Texas	The University of Texas at Austin	Laredo, TX.	Briselda Duarte (PM)	2/22/2016	\$58,575.00	Project Status: Project staff is currently working with CILA, CONAGUA and IMTA to identify Mexican representatives to the Lower Rio Grande Water Quality Initiative project.
						8/31/2017	\$ 19,399.64	
5	20291	Fat, Oil and Grease (FOG) Public Outreach Campaign, Brownsville, Texas	Brownsville Public Utilities Board	Brownsville, TX.	Briselda Duarte (PM)	2/22/2016	\$25,000.00	Project Status: Project completion date extended to April 2017. Outreach effort continues, BPUB currently has two (2) digital poster boards that run FOG ads.
						2/2/2017	\$ 16,237.90	
6	20292	Awareness and Discharge Control Rules.	Jardín de Agua y Osmosis de la Ciudad de Matamoros	Matamoros, Tamps.	Briselda Duarte (PM)	TBD	\$25,000.00	Project Status: Cancelled due to uninterpretable legal framework to implement the various municipal codes. It was suggested to reapply for funding in the next SFP, once the required program is legally approved.
						TBD		

7	20294	Let's Clean it Up and Green it Up, Pharr, Texas	City of Pharr, Recycling Center	Pharr, TX.	Jorge Hernandez (PM)	2/22/2016	\$36,390.00	Project Status: The city of Pharr representatives attended the environmental summit meeting for Pharr schools to promote recycling and tire collection monthly operations and clean sweep events. The city hosted the annual tire incentive program for Pharr residents. Final document is being drafted, project is expected to finish by next quarter.
						4/2/2017	\$ 28,278.35	

Updated March 31, 2017

Amount Approved	\$	201,349.33
Amount Disbursed	\$	103,086.04

Total Approved	\$	242,737.33
Total Disbursed	\$	103,086.04